

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/657,216

Applicant(s)

Chollon et al.

Examiner

O'Connor

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE w/Amdt, filed 9/18/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 20, 21, and 24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on June 25, 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than payment of the issue fee.

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 15 and 17-19, non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 15 and 17-19 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art, Gardner et al. (US 5,758,327), discloses a method of electronic requisition processing that includes storing company-specific requisition rules and an electronic catalog on a central computer system located at a first site. In addition to identifying items and the costs of the items, the storing of the catalog may include storing commodity code structures and charts of accounts for companies 12, 14, and 16 for transactions with vendors 24, 26, and 28. In operation, one of the requesters 18 of company 12 may browse the electronic catalog to determine whether a specific item is available. In addition to the general catalog, there may be a

company-specific catalog available to the requesters 18 of company 12. The company-specific catalog may include items not available to the other companies 14 and 16 or may include discount and other pricing information different than the other companies. If the requestor 18 finds the item, the requester completes a requisition form. The requisition form may be stored at the central computer system 10 as part of the requisition rules 36 of the company. In addition to the identification of the item or items, the requisition form will include blocks regarding the identification of the company, any commodity code, any account code, etc. In response to the requisition, the appropriate requisition rules for that company are implemented. The authorization process dictated by the requisition rules of the company is followed, with at least a portion of the process being executed electronically via the external communications line. If the purchase of items is authorized, an appropriate number of purchase orders are generated and are preferably transmitted to vendors electronically. The method isolates the companies from the vendors. In one embodiment, the payment process is also carried out in a manner that isolates the companies and the vendors. Vendors invoice the operators of the central computer system, who then invoice the companies.

However, Gardner et al. fail to disclose, or fairly suggest, creating a requisition for goods and/or services with reference to a chart of general ledger account codes mapped to commodity codes prepared and stored as digital signals in a chart of accounts database by an administrator of an enterprise, the requisition created by displaying to the requisitioner a commodity description document presenting a plurality of commodity descriptions and corresponding commodity codes,

with the requisitioner then selecting a commodity code from said commodity description document and selecting from a chart of accounts database with only those general ledger accounting codes appropriate for that particular selected commodity code, then initiating a proceed to accounting process including presenting to the requisitioner a financial worksheet with valid general ledger accounts numbers and descriptions corresponding to the selected commodity code, and responsive to the mapping, the requisitioner executing financial validation on the requisition for the commodities by selecting from the financial worksheet a general ledger account code mapped to the selected commodity code.

Note that, though expressly included in the search for prior art, neither any foreign patents nor any non-patent literature were identified that could reasonably be considered sufficiently relevant or pertinent so as to be characterized and addressed as “closest prior art.”

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

5. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that failure by the examiner to respond to any such statement commenting on reasons for allowance does not give rise to any implication. See 37 CFR § 1.104(e).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication, or earlier communications, should be directed to the examiner, **Jerry O'Connor**, whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6787**, and whose facsimile number is **(571) 273-6787**.

The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Alexander Kalinowski, can be reached at **(571) 272-6771**.

Official replies to this Office action may be submitted by any *one* of fax, mail, or hand delivery. **Faxed replies are preferred and should be directed to (571) 273-8300**. Mailed replies should be addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450." Hand delivered replies should be delivered to the "Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314."

GJOC

September 30, 2006



Gerald J. O'Connor
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 3627

9/30/06